

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 /075 W
-----119171 250134Z /73

R 241452Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: DEMOLITION OF UNIBEL SQUATTER CAMP COMPLETED

REF: CAPE TOWN 0049,

SUMMARY: BANTU AFFAIRS BOARD (BAB) WORKERS COMPLETED
RAZING OF UNIBEL SQUATTER CAMP (REFTEL) AT END OF LAST
WEEK AND ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF SQUATTERS HAVE LEFT THE CAMP.
THEIR PROBABLY DESTINATION IS MATTER OF LOCAL DISPUTE.
END SUMMARY

1. DESPITE THE USUAL STRONG DENUNCIATIONS BY LEADING
PUBLIC FIGURES, A PROTEST MEETING AT CITY HALL AND EFFORTS
BY THE LEADERS OF THE UNIBEL COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE PASSIVE
RESISTANCE, THE RAZING OF SQUATTER SHANTIES AT UNIBEL
(REFTEL) WAS COMPLETED AT END OF LAST WEEK AND VAST
BULK OF ITS ESTIMATED 10-15,000 RESIDENTS HAD DEPARTED.

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2. LOCAL BAB AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THAT MAJORITY OF
"ILLEGAL" SQUATTERS HAD RETURNED TO TRANSKEI, POINTING
OUT THAT SLIGHTLY OVER 1,000 FREE RAIL WARRANTS HAD BEEN
ISSUED. SOCIAL WORKERS, HOWEVER, ARGUED THAT VAST BULK
OF SQUATTERS HAVE SIMPLY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE
PENINSULA SEEKING MORE REMOTE SITES TO RE-ERECT THEIR
SHANTIES. WHILE LOCAL TRANSKEI OFFICIALS AT BEGINNING

OF LAST WEEK CHARGED THAT DEMOLITION OF UNIBER WAS VIOLATION OF "AGREEMENT" REACHED LAST YEAR WITH SAG, THIS WAS FORCEFULLY REBUTTED BY DEPUTY BANTU AFFAIRS MINISTER W. CRUYWAGEN WHO SAID TRANSKEI AMBASSADOR WAS "INFORMED" AT DECEMBER 22 MEETING IN PRETORIA THAT UNIBER CAMP WOULD BE DEMOLISHED "IN AN ORDERLY WAY, WITH SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF THE SQUATTERS." TRANSKEI OFFICIALS DID NOT ATTEMPT REFUTE CRUYWAGEN STATEMENT AND MADE NO FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS.

3. IN WHAT LOCAL "ARGUS" NEWSPAPER CALLED A "SEARING INDICTMENT," A GROUP OF THREE UCT MEDICAL SCHOOL DOCTORS RELEASED REPORT STATING THAT DESTRUCTION OF UNIBERL HAD BEEN EXECUTED "IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED, IN MOST INHUMANE MANNER AND PRODUCED A SITUATION WHICH CAN FAIRLY BE DESCRIBED AS THAT OF ANARCHY."

4. SAG APPEARS AS DETERMINED AS PROVERIOUSLY TO PROCEED WITH DESTRUCTION OF SQUATTER CAMPS IN CAPE PENINSULA IN EFFORT TO STEM BLACK IN-MIGRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS POLICY OF DESIGNATING THE WESTERN CAPE A "COLORED PREFERENCE" AREA. THOSE MOST CONCERNED WITH WELFARE OF BLACK SQUATTERS HERE FEAR THAT SAG MAY NOW FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE LARGE CROSSROADS CAMP WHICH CONTAINS AN ESTIMATED 25,000 PEOPLE.
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WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SQUATTERS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780131/aaaaazlq.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
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